

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH CANADIAN OFFICIALS ON CANADIAN CONSULAR
RELATIONS WITH PRC

REF: HONG KONG A-193

1. SUMMARY: ON NOVEMBER 3, USLO CONOFF MET WITH
VISITING CANADIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS CLIFTON SHAW
AND DONALD CAMERON. BOTH ARE ASSIGNED TO THE CANA-
DIAN COMMISSION IN HONG KONG, ALTHOUGH CAMERON, WHO
IS IN CHARGE OF THE CANADIAN REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES
PROGRAM, ALSO ENJOYS ACCREDITATION AS A FIRST SECRETARY
IN THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING. THIS CABLE SUMMARIZES
CAMERON'S COMMENTS ON CANADIAN APPROACHES TO PROBLEMS WHICH
PARALLEL OUR OWN IN THE AREAS OF DUAL NATIONALS, INTER-
CESSION FOR EXIT PERMITS, CIVIL DOCUMENTATION, AND
ACCESS TO THE CANADIAN EMBASSY FOR IV AND NIV APPLICANTS.
END SUMMARY

2. GENERAL: CAMERON SAID THAT HIS RELATIONS WITH
THE OVERSEAS CHINESE TRAVEL SERVICE (OCTS) AND THE CON-
SULAR AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF THE MFA HAVE REACHED A NEW
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ERA OF GOOD FEELINGS, PROBABLY BECAUSE THE MAJOR

ADMINISTRATIVE SNAGS AND CONFLICTS HAVE BEEN SATISFACTORILY WORKED OUT. THE CANADIANS HAVE ALTERED THEIR PROCEDURES SO AS TO SCREEN OUT "95 PER CENT" OF APPLICANTS WHO WILL BE INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS. THE CHINESE FOR THEIR PART HAVE ALSO BEEN MORE FORTHCOMING, AS WITNESSED BY THE GRANTING OF PERMISSION ON THIS TRIP FOR CAMERON TO INTERVIEW IV APPLICANTS IN THE CANADIAN EMBASSY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE PROGRAM.

3. AS IF TO CELEBRATE THIS NEWFOUND COOPERATION, OCTS GAVE A BANQUET FOR CAMERON AND SHAW ON THEIR ARRIVAL IN PEKING, HOSTED BY A "MR. FENG", WHOM CAMERON DESCRIBED AS THE HIGHEST-RANKING OCTS OFFICIAL HE HAD YET MET. CAMERON MENTIONED THAT DURING THE BANQUET HE ASKED FENG WHETHER THERE WAS ANY LIKELIHOOD IN THE FUTURE OF A CONSULAR AGREEMENT WITH THE US SIMILAR TO THE CANADIAN AGREEMENT, TO WHICH FENG REPLIED: "IT IS A POSSIBILITY."

4. NIV INTERVIEWS: ALTHOUGH THE CANADIANS MAY NOW INTERVIEW IV APPLICANTS AT THEIR EMBASSY, THE CHINESE HAVE STILL NOT CHANGED THEIR POSITION ON NIV APPLICANTS HAVING ACCESS TO THE EMBASSY. THE MFA HAS INFORMED CAMERON THAT IT IS "INCONVENIENT" TO ALLOW NIV APPLICANTS TO BE INTERVIEWED EITHER AT THE EMBASSY OR ELSEWHERE. THE CANADIANS PLAN TO CONTINUE TO INSIST ON THE RIGHT TO INTERVIEW WHEN NECESSARY. CAMERON REITERATED HIS STATEMENT (SEE REPAIR) THAT WHEN CONFRONTED WITH A CONFLICT OF PRC AND CANADIAN PROCEDURES, THE CHINESE OFTEN EVENTUALLY BEND ON SUPPOSEDLY UNALTERABLE REGULATIONS.

5. DUAL NATIONALS: THE CANADIANS UNTIL RECENTLY ISSUED PASSPORTS BY MAIL TO ETHNIC CHINESE-CANADIAN CITIZENS IN KWANGTUNG PROVINCE, BUT THIS PRACTICE WAS STOPPED WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE ISSUANCE OF CANADIAN PASSPORTS WAS CREATING DIFFICULTIES FOR THE RECIPIENTS, WHOM THE PRC ALSO CONSIDERED TO BE CHINESE CITIZENS. SOME HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED EXIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERMITS, AND THOSE THAT WERE ALLOWED TO LEAVE HAD TO EXIT ON PRC PASSPORTS. CAMERSON BELIEVES THAT THE CHINESE, IN KEEPING WITH THEIR POLICY OF ENCOURAGING OVERSEAS CHINESE TO ASSIMILATE IN THEIR COUNTRIES OF RESIDENCE, TAKE THE POSITION THAT SINCE THE PRC CONSIDERS DUAL NATIONALS IN CANADA TO BE CANADIAN CITIZENS, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD RECIPROCALLY CONSIDER DUAL NATIONALS IN THE PRC TO BE CHINESE CITIZENS

AND ADOPT A HANDS-OFF ATTITUDE. USLO OFFICER REMARKED THAT IF CAMERON'S SUPPOSITION WAS TRUE, THEN PROBABLY THE BEST ADVICE TO GIVE BOTH CANADIAN AND US CITIZENSHIP CLAIMANTS IN THE PRC WOULD BE TO TELL THEM TO TRY TO GET TO HONG KONG ON SOME PRETEXT, WITHOUT RAISING THE QUESTION OF CITIZENSHIP, SO AS TO OBTAIN A PASSPORT THERE. CAMERON REPLIED THAT IN FACT THE CANADIANS HAVE GONE A STEP FURTHER AND NOW TRY WHENEVER POSSIBLE TO DOCUMENT CANADIAN CITIZENS IN THE PRC AS IMMIGRANTS. THEY ARE ISSUED SPECIALLY MARKED IMMIGRANT VISAS, AND THEN, AFTER ARRIVAL IN HONG KONG IN TRANSIT TO CANADA, THE VISA IS RECLAIMED AND A CANADIAN PASSPORT ISSUED.

6. INTERCESSION FOR EXIT PERMITS: THE CANADIANS MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE OCTS IN CASES OF DELAYED EXIT PERMITS FOR PRC NATIONALS ONLY IF (1) THE PERSON WHOSE EXIT PERMIT HAS NOT BEEN ISSUED BELONGS TO A FAMILY UNDER THE REUNIFICATION PROGRAM, AT LEAST ONE OF WHOSE MEMBERS HAS ALREADY BEEN GRANTED AN EXIT PERMIT, AND (2) CAMERON IS SATISFIED THAT CANADIAN IMMIGRANT VISA ISSUANCE IS A VIRTUAL CERTAINTY ONCE THE EXIT PERMIT HAS BEEN GRANTED. IN ALL OTHER CASES THE CANADIANS INFORM THE RELATIVE IN CANADA WHO IS REQUESTING INTERCESSION THAT SUCH AN ACTION WOULD CONSTITUTE UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE PRC. USLO OFF ASKED CAMERON IF HE HAD EVER HAD TO REFUSE A VISA TO SOMEONE ABOUT WHOM REPRESENTATIONS HAD BEEN MADE TO THE OCTS. CAMERON REPLIED THAT HE HAD GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO AVOID THAT SITUATION, AS HE IMAGINED THE CHINESE REACTION WOULD BE QUITE HEATED IF IT OCCURRED.

7. WITH RESPECT TO SIMPLE TRANSMITTAL OF CORRESPONDENCE
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TO THE PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY, CAMERON SAID THAT CANADIAN POLICY WAS TO REFER THE WRITER TO THE PRC EMBASSY IN OTTAWA. HE MENTIONED IN THIS CONTEXT THAT HE WAS SURPRISED DURING ONE OF HIS RECENT MEETINGS WITH THE MFA CONSULAR AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TO BE HANDED A LETTER FROM CANADA ADDRESSED TO PREMIER CHOU, AND ASKED TO REPLY. HE COULD IMAGINE THE WRITER'S REACTION WHEN HE RECEIVED A LETTER ON CANADIAN EMBASSY STATIONERY, BEGINNING, "PREMIER CHOU HAS ASKED ME TO REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF..."

8. CIVIL DOCUMENTATION: CAMERON MENTIONED THAT ONE OF HIS OCTS GUIDES HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE OCTS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR VERIFYING THE CONTENTS OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIP CERTIFICATES ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH

THE REUNIFICATION PROGRAM. IN CASES WHERE THE RECORDS
OF THE PRODUCTION BRIGADE OR NEIGHBORHOOD REVOLUTIONARY
COMMITTEE WERE INSUFFICIENT, CAMERON'S GUIDE SAID
VERIFICATION OFTEN INVOLVED "BICYCLING OUT TO THE
COUNTRYSIDE TO INTERVIEW THE WHITE-HAIRED PEOPLE."
BUSH

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